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. 8	BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
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10	STATE OF CA	ALIFORNIA
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2010-616
12	CATHERINE ROBERTA OTT-WILLIAMS,	
13	a.k.a. CATHERINE ROBERTA WILLIAMS 1547 33rd Street	ACCUSATION
14	Sacramento, CA 95816 Registered Nurse License No. 298463	
15	Respondent.	
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17	Complainant alleges:	
18	<u>PARTIES</u>	
19	1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN ("Complainant") brings this Accusation solely in her	
20	official capacity as the Interim Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing ("Board"),	
21	Department of Consumer Affairs.	
22	2. On or about December 31, 1978, the Board issued Registered Nurse License Number	
23	298463 to Catherine Roberta Ott-Williams, also known as Catherine Roberta Williams	
24	("Respondent"). Respondent's registered nurse license was in full force and effect at all times	
25	relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on February 29, 2012, unless renewed.	
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STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

- 3. Business and Professions Code ("Code") section 2750 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.
 - 4. Code section 2761 states, in pertinent part:

The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

- (a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- (1) Incompetence, or gross negligence in carrying out usual certified or licensed nursing functions . . .
- 5. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section ("Regulation") 1442 states:

As used in Section 2761 of the code, 'gross negligence' includes an extreme departure from the standard of care which, under similar circumstances, would have ordinarily been exercised by a competent registered nurse. Such an extreme departure means the repeated failure to provide nursing care as required or failure to provide care or to exercise ordinary precaution in a single situation which the nurse knew, or should have known, could have jeopardized the client's health or life.

6. Regulation 1443 states:

As used in Section 2761 of the code, "incompetence" means the lack of possession of or the failure to exercise that degree of learning, skill, care and experience ordinarily possessed and exercised by a competent registered nurse as described in Section 1443.5.

7. Regulation 1443.5 states, in pertinent part:

A registered nurse shall be considered to be competent when he/she consistently demonstrates the ability to transfer scientific knowledge from social, biological and physical sciences in applying the nursing process, as follows:

(6) Acts as the client's advocate, as circumstances require, by initiating action to improve health care or to change decisions or activities which are against the interests or wishes of the client, and by giving the client the opportunity to make informed decisions about health care before it is provided.

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Accusation

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COST RECOVERY

8. Code section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence)

- 9. At all times relevant herein, Respondent was employed as a registered nurse in the Obstetrics department at UC Davis Medical Center ("UCDMC").
- On or about August 4, 2007, Respondent was assigned to care for E. A., a first day post-operative cesarean section patient (E. A. was a registered nurse from another unit at UCDMC). Respondent medicated the patient for pain on request, then returned approximately 10 minutes later and performed a glucose finger stick on the patient. Respondent told the patient that her blood glucose was 126. The patient informed Respondent that she was not diabetic. A few minutes later, while the patient was nursing her baby, Respondent injected the patient in the arm with a syringe without telling the patient that she was administering NPH Insulin. The patient informed Respondent again that she was not diabetic. Respondent told the patient that the insulin was ordered by her physician, then attempted to remind the patient about their conversations regarding her history of diabetes the day before. The patient informed Respondent that they had never had a discussion about her history of diabetes, and that she had just been moved to the postpartum unit that day. Respondent realized that a medication error had occurred, but did not immediately report the incident to the charge nurse or the patient's physician. At approximately 1500 hours and five hours after administering the insulin, the patient's blood glucose was 44, and the patient was symptomatic for hypoglycemia (the patient reported that she was sleepy, fading, hallucinating, and sweating profusely).
- 11. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code section 2761, subdivision (a)(1), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that Respondent was guilty of gross negligence in her care of E. A. within the meaning of Regulation 1442, as follows:

Respondent failed to follow the "Five Rights" of medication administration, the right patient, right drug, right dose, right time, and right route, in that Respondent failed to check the patient's identification arm band or ask the patient her name, and failed to check the medication administration record ("MAR") against the patient's name before administering the NPH Insulin to the patient.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Incompetence)

- 12. Complainant incorporates by reference as though fully set forth herein the allegations contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 above.
- 13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code section 2761, subdivision (a)(1), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that on or about August 4, 2007, Respondent was guilty of incompetence in her care of patient E. A. within the meaning of Regulation 1443, as follows:
- a. Respondent failed to act as the patient's advocate and inform the patient that she was giving her NPH Insulin before administering the injection, thereby depriving the patient of the opportunity to tell Respondent that it was the wrong medication.
- b. Respondent failed to report the medication error to the charge nurse and the patient's physician in a timely manner.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct)

- 14. Complainant incorporates by reference as though fully set forth herein the allegations contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 above.
- 15. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code section 2761, subdivision (a), in that Respondent committed acts constituting unprofessional conduct in her care of patient E. A., as follows:
- a. Respondent failed to take a second set of vital signs on the patient within four hours of taking the first set of vital signs per UCDMC's policy pertaining to first day cesarean section patients.

- b. At approximately 1500 hours on August 4, 2007, Respondent administered an IV fluid bolus of D5LR and infused 1000 cc's before notifying the patient's physician and without a physician's order.
- c. Respondent formula fed the patient's infant (due to the patient's symptoms of hypoglycemia) without the patient's permission.
- d. Respondent failed to follow UCDMC's "Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct/Patient Care Structure Standards" by taking matters into her own hands and administering the IV fluid bolus of D5LR to the patient before notifying the patient's physician and without a physician's order, and by administering the NPH Insulin to the patient before telling her what medication she was being given.
- e. Respondent failed to follow UCDMC's policy and procedure, Patient Identification for the Hospitalized Patient, by failing to check the patient's identification arm band against the patient's chart or MAR, as above.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

- Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 298463, issued to
 Catherine Roberta Ott-Williams, also known as Catherine Roberta Williams;
- 2. Ordering Catherine Roberta Ott-Williams, also known as Catherine Roberta Williams, to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3;
 - 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED:

LOUISE R. BAILEY, M.ED., RN

Interim Executive Officer

Board of Registered Nursing

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

Complainant

SA2010100503